

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 DPW-01 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /071 W

-----011173 140430Z /23

O 140401Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9595

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, VM, US

SUBJECT: PHAN HIEN REMARKS ON US-SRV RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 174899; B. TOKYO 12608

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PHAN HIEN REMARKS ON US-SRV
NORMALIZATION IN JULY 10 TOKYO PRESS CONFERENCE. WE ARE
POUCHING TAPE TO EA/VLC.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION: DID YOU CALL FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
WITH THE U.S., IN TOKYO? DID YOU SAY THAT VIETNAM WILL
NOT ATTACH ANY PRIOR CONDITIONS IN REGARD TO TALKS WITH
THE U.S.?

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HOWEVER, IN NHAN DAN, OF MARCH 27 OF LAST YEAR, VICE
MINISTER PHAN HIEN SAID THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE
NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND
VIETNAM, THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLYING INFORMATION CONCERNING
MISSING AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN AID
FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM MUST BE PROMOTED AT THE

SAME TIME, INTERTWINED WITH EACH OTHER, FROM THE LOGIC THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THE PAST AND FUTURE COMPLETELY. WHAT DOES THIS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR SAYING IN TOKYO THAT NO PREMISING CONDITIONS WILL BE ATTACHED, AND THE NHAN DAN OF MARCH 27 MEAN? ANOTHER POINT IN REGARD TO THIS SAME PROBLEM OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., IS WHETHER YOU WILL NEED THE SUPPORT OF JAPAN FOR PROMOTING SUCH NORMALIZATION.

ANSWER:

AT ANY RATE, I THINK IT IS A FACT THAT THERE ARE THREE ISSUES IN THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.: THE ISSUE OF MISSING AMERICANS, THE ISSUE OF AID, AND THE ISSUE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. NO MATTER WHICH ISSUE IS DISCUSSED FIRST, THEY MUST ALL BE DISCUSSED SOONER OR LATER. IF AN ISSUE IS NOT DISCUSSED SOONER IT MUST BE DISCUSSED LATER.

WE MAINTAIN OUR BASIC VIEWS. WE ARE NOW ENTERING A NEW STAGE. I THINK THERE WILL BE NEW PROGRESS, TOO. IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE PREPARED TO HOLD TALKS WITH AMERICA FOR DISCOVERING THE METHODS FOR A PROPER SETTLEMENT, WHICH WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. HOWEVER, AS FOR THE ORDER OF THE PROBLEMS, I THINK THAT THEY CAN BE PROMOTED THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, AFTER ALL.
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I THINK IT CAN BE SAID THAT, ON THIS PROBLEM, A NEW, FORWARD-LOOKING ATTITUDE IS BEING SHOWN BY THE VIETNAMESE SIDE.

FOR THE TWO NATIONS TO HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS, I WISH TO MAKE EFFORTS, SO AS TO DISCOVER SOME NEW WAY, AFTER ALL, THROUGH TALKS. IF THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS REALIZED, WE ARE PREPARED TO HOLD TALKS ALSO FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS PENDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

I WANT TO HAVE THIS POINT FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE AMERICANS. OF COURSE, I KNOW THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES. IF THESE MATTERS ARE UNDERSTOOD, THEN I THINK THEY WILL ALSO COME TO SHOW NEW GOODWILL AT THE NEXT TALKS. HOWEVER, AS TO WHAT TALKS WILL BE HELD CONCRETELY, PLEASE WAIT. I THINK THIS IS A DIPLOMATIC SECRET; IT CANNOT BE TOLD IN ADVANCE.

AS FOR THE SECOND QUESTION, WE HAVE THE INTEREST OF THE TOP LEADERS OF JAPAN TOWARD THIS PROBLEM, AT ANY RATE. FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA AND PERSONS OF VARIOUS OTHER

MINISTRIES CONCERNED, ARE ALSO SHOWING INTEREST. ALSO,
I THINK THAT THE CONTENTS OF SOME PARTS OF WHAT WE SAID
HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO THE AMERICANS, TOO, THROUGH THEM.
I THINK THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER THIS KIND OF GOOD-
WILL OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. I KNOW THAT AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD, HERE IN TOKYO, WHOM I KNOW
AND HAD PREVIOUSLY MET, WILL HEAR AND UNDERSTAND THESE
THINGS FULLY.

QUESTION:
WILL YOU HANDLE THE REHABILITATION AND CONSTRUCTION

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PROBLEM AND THE PROBLEM OF MISSING AMERICANS SEPARATELY?
I WANT YOU TO RE-CONFIRM THAT.

ON THE FIRST, PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG SAID IN COLOMBO THAT
THESE TWO ARE RELATED PROBLEMS. THEREFORE, IF THE TALKS
ARE RESUMED, HOW WILL THEY BE HANDLED? ON THE PART OF
VIETNAM ...

ANSWER:
WHAT I CAN SAY ABOUT THE MISSING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IS
THAT THE WORK OF FINDING THE BODIES OF THOSE WHO ARE
MISSING IS NOW CONTINUING TO BE PUSHED. WE HAVE OUR

ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE WHICH HAS LONG BEEN SEARCHING FOR AMERICAN MIA'S. TODAY, REPRESENTATIVES OF VIETNAM'S TECHNICAL EXPERTS WENT TO HONOLULU ON A VISIT. THEY WILL INSPECT THE TECHNICAL PROCESS BY WHICH THE AMERICAN CENTER THERE SEARCHES FOR AND IDENTIFIED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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REMAINS OF HUMAN BODIES. AFTER THIS, OUR EFFORTS TO SEARCH FOR AND IDENTIFY MISSING AMERICANS WILL BE FACILITATED. THROUGH THIS, I THINK THE VIETNAMESE SIDE'S GOODWILL TOWARD THIS PROBLEM IS BEING FULLY SHOWN.

EVEN WHILE AMERICA IS NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT AID TO VIETNAM, THIS WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT CONTINUOUSLY. TOWARD THIS, I THINK IT WILL BECOME A PROBLEM AS TO IN WHAT WAY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO VIETNAM'S RECONSTRUCTION.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DESTRUCTIVE WAR, VIETNAM RECEIVED VERY ARDENT AID FROM VARIOUS NATIONS OF THE WORLD, WHETHER THEY HAD CONNECTIONS WITH VIETNAM OR WHETHER THEY WERE UNCONNECTED. EVEN UNDER SUCH A SITUATION, AMERICA DID NOTHING. THEREFORE, I THINK THAT IT WILL BE GOOD IF THIS PROBLEM IS BROUGHT UP, THINKING THAT IT IS BETTER IF THEY THEMSELVES ASK THIS QUESTION OF THEMSELVES.

IN THE PAST, THEY BROUGHT CARPET-BOMBING TO VIETNAM. HOWEVER, THAT IS NO MORE THAN A MATTER OF THE PAST. HOWEVER, IF THEY NOW COME WITH AN ATTITUDE OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION, WE ARE PREPARED TO WELCOME THEM. HOWEVER, THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF VIETNAM MUST BE RESPECTED, FIRST OF ALL, ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE, AND I THINK THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MUST BE PROMOTED ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RECIPROCITY.

IF THEY SAY THAT THEY WISH TO COME TO VIETNAM WITH SUCH A SPIRIT THEY WILL BE WELCOMED, AND IF THEY COME WITH SOMETHING IN THEIR HANDS, THEY WILL BE MORE WELCOMED THAN IF THEY COME WITH EMPTY HANDS. AS WE ARE SIMILARLY ALL ASIAN PEOPLE, I THINK WE CAN OBTAIN (YOUR) SYMPATHETIC UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSE. (HIEN LAUGHS) I THINK THAT, AT ANY RATE, TO DO SO WILL BE THE CORRECT WAY.

QUESTION:

IN YOUR REPLY TO A QUESTION EARLIER, YOU USED THE
EXPRESSION NEW SITUATION, AMONG THE REASONS FOR WHAT CAN
BE CONSIDERED AS A CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE TOWARD
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S., TO SOME EXTENT. CONCRETELY,
IS THAT IN RESPECT TO INTERNAL PROBLEMS, OR EXTERNAL
PROBLEMS? IS THE WORSENING OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA ONE
ELEMENT OF THE NEW SITUATION?

ANSWER:

AS FOR THE NEW SITUATION, THE FACT THAT THREE YEARS HAVE
PASSED FROM THE LIBERATION TO TODAY IS ALSO A NEW
SITUATION, AND VARIOUS NEW THINGS HAVE APPEARED, BOTH
INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY. IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS,
MANY NEW CONDITIONS WHICH ARE GOOD FOR EXTERNAL CO-
OPERATIVE RELATIONS HAVE APPEARED.

I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT RELATIONS WITH CHINA CANNOT
DECIDE VIETNAM'S POLICY TOWARD THE U.S. AT THE TIME OF
THE COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THE COUNTRY, WE ANNOUNCED THAT
WE ARE PREPARED TO NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
THE U.S.

TODAY, HOWEVER, I THINK THAT VIETNAM ITSELF IS OPENING A

NEW WAY FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
END TEXT. MANSFIELD

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